

Office of the Governor, May 18, 1981
TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
WASHINGTON

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I am returning herewith without my approval as to Sections 69 through 81, Section 86, and portions of Section 82, SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL NO. 3655 entitled:

“An Act relating to redistricting.”

Sections 69 through 81 and Section 86 redraw the state’s Congressional districts. Section 82 contains minor references to Congressional redistricting. Having reviewed the proposed new districts, having heard the unanimous disapproval of the plan expressed by the state’s Congressional delegation, and having heard the concerns of voters around the state, I find that the public interest is not served by needlessly dividing into separate Congressional districts major cities, counties, regions and areas of common interest. Also, existing districts are changed radically to the extent that for the next 18 months more than two million residents of this state will reside in their existing districts while their former congressman will have been assigned to a new district. This wholesale disenfranchisement is neither necessary nor desirable.

Fortunately Section 84 provides a mechanism by which to resolve next session remaining problems in redistricting. It is my hope that the leadership will work with the Congressional delegation and others to develop a new plan by January. There also may be provisions in the signed portions of the bill dealing with legislative districts that need similar review and remedial action next session.

I have talked with the leadership of the House and Senate and am confident that these issues can be resolved.

With the exceptions of Sections 69 through 81, Sections 86, and portions of Section 82, which I have vetoed, Substitute Senate Bill No. 3655 is approved.

Respectfully submitted,
JOHN SPELLMAN
Governor.